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Message Text

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DRAFTED BY D:WCHRISTOPHER
APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183503 TOSEC 080191

NODIS
-- FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL PERSPECTIVES.

1. YOU ARE RETURNING AT A TIME OF INTENSIVE ACTIVITY ON THE HILL. THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION WILL COME UP IN THE SENATE ON MONDAY, WITH MAJOR CHALLENGES TO ADMINISTRATION POLICY ON TURKEY AND RHODESIA, AND PROBABLY CHINA AND KOREA. ALL OF THESE BATTLES WILL BE REFOUGHT IN THE HOUSE, PROBABLY THE FOLLOWING WEEK. THE FOREIGN AID APPROPRIATION, NOW SCHEDULED IN THE HOUSE FOR AUGUST 1 AND 2 AND IN SERIOUS TROUBLE, MAY BE POSTPONED AGAIN.

2. FOLLOWING IS AN OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

(A) TURKEY: LIFTING THE TURKISH EMBARGO REMAINS OUR TOP
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PRIORITY. VOTE PROJECTIONS REMAIN EXTREMELY CLOSE IN BOTH HOUSES. BYRD, HAVING JUST RETURNED FROM NATO, IS WORKING HARD IN THE SENATE AND BELIEVES WE WILL PREVAIL IN A CLOSE VOTE. I HAVE BEEN COORDINATING OUR STRATEGY WITH THE WHITE HOUSE. WE ARE USING DENKTASH'S VAROSHA RESETTLEMENT LETTER (RELEASED TODAY) TO HELP WITH UNCOMMITTED SENATORS AND WITH O'NEILL AND WRIGHT.

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(B) HELMS AMENDMENT: HELMS IS MAKING AN ALL-OUT PUSH TO LIFT THE SANCTIONS ON RHODESIA FOR SIX MONTHS. HE HAS MUZOREWA IN TOWN PREACHING HIS LINE, CLAIMS TO HAVE 51 VOTES, AND SAYS HE WILL FILIBUSTER UNLESS HE GETS HIS WAY. HE IS ALSO THREATENING TO WITHHOLD 6-10 CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN VOTES ON TURKEY UNLESS THE ADMINISTRATION ACCEPTS HIS POSITION. DOUG BENNET IS CHAIRING A WORKING GROUP ON THE HELMS AMENDMENT WHICH INCLUDES THE NSC.

WE ARE MAKING AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO EDUCATE SENATORS ON WHY A CHANGE IN POLICY TOWARD RHODESIA NOW WOULD WRECK OUR AFRICA POLICY. THE PRESIDENT MADE AN EFFECTIVE STATEMENT ON THIS AT BREAKFAST WITH 18 SENATORS YESTERDAY. THE PRESIDENT CALLED ME THIS MORNING TO EXPRESS CONCERN THAT HELMS IS GAINING GROUND. I TOLD HIM WE ARE HARD AT WORK TO DEFEAT HELMS. I BRIEFED HIM ON THE EFFORT BEING LED BY CASE, JAVITS AND CLARK TO FIND COMPROMISE LANGUAGE WHICH WOULD LINK SUBSEQUENT LIFTING OF SANCTIONS TO CERTAIN DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS ATTENDANCE AT AN ALL-PARTIES CONFERENCE AND A FINDING BY THE PRESIDENT THAT FREE ELECTIONS HAD BEEN HELD IN RHODESIA.

(C) KOREA: PERCY HAS INTRODUCED AN AMENDMENT TO THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT FURTHER TROOP WITHDRAWALS FROM KOREA. GLENN IS WORKING WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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HIM ON A COMPROMISE WHICH, WE BELIEVE, MAY BE ACCEPTABLE. I HAVE RECOMMENDED, ON A CONTINGENT BASIS, A PRESIDENTIAL LETTER STRESSING THAT WITHDRAWALS WILL BE RE-EXAMINED IN LIGHT OF CHANGING CONDITIONS. DOUG BENNET IS HEADING A GROUP WHICH IS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE WHITE HOUSE AND DEFENSE.

(D) CHINA: A DOLE AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE SENATE APPROVAL BEFORE WE COULD ABROGATE THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH TAIWAN MAY PROVE MORE DIFFICULT. DOLE MAY BE PREPARED TO COMPROMISE; BUT IF NOT, WE COULD BE FORCED INTO A FLOOR FIGHT. CRANSTON, KENNEDY AND MAYBE JACKSON WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER TO DEVELOP SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE FOR THE DOLE AMENDMENT.

3. ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, CHAIRMAN LONG WILL SEEK MAJOR CUTS IN THE IFT APPROPRIATION. WE WILL EXPECT AND 8 PERCENT ACCROSS-THE BOARD CUT, AND WE WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH EFFORTS TO IMPOSE COUNTRY - AND COMMODITY - SPECIFIC PROVISIONS. FINAL PASSAGE OF THIS BILL IS IN QUESTION, AND A MAJOR ADMINISTRATION-WIDE EFFORT WILL BE NECESSARY TO PULL IT OUT. THE WHITE HOUSE IS COORDINATING THE

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ADMINISTRATION'S STRATEGY.

4. BRIEFINGS ON YOUR TRIP.

MEMBERS WILL BE ANXIOUS TO HEAR YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE THREE COMPONENTS OF YOUR EUROPEAN TRIP: SALT, THE ECONOMIC SUMMIT AND THE MIDDLE EAST TALKS. WE WILL WANT TO DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF BRIEFINGS ON THESE SUBJECTS PRIOR TO YOUR DEPARTURE FOR THE MIDDLE EAST.

DOUG FEELS IT IMPORTANT THAT YOU APPEAR BEFORE THE SFRC AND HIRC WITH A MORE FORMAL PRESENTATION ON SALT AND THE MIDDLE EAST. THE SFRC HAS REQUESTED YOUR TESTIMONY. AT A TIME WHEN THESE TWO COMMITTEES WILL BE GOING TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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FLOOR TO DEFEND ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS, IT IS DESIRABLE THAT THEY BE KEPT ABREAST OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND FEEL ENGAGED IN OUR EFFORTS.

CHRISTOPHER

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